

TO THE  
PARLIAMENT  
OF THE  
Common--vvealth  
OF  
ENGLAND.

The PETITION and ADDRESS of Captain  
*William Bray.*

*In humble manner sheweth,*

**T**hat in the yeare 1647, (after divers years before that, spent in faithfull affections to your Service,) your Petitioner received very great injuries, by perticular persons in the Army; to his loss, cost and damage some hundreds of pounds, as he believeth would be judged by any moderate, impartial, and rational man; if the same were related and made fit for to receive your judgment; but most of your Petitioners Grand and chief adversaries, being since that dead, your Petitioner shall not trouble you with the memory of the sad, and true relation thereof.

That in 1648, your said Petitioner (judging that the injuries then before chiefly received, by means of a few particular men since deceased, was no just Argument to prevail upon his

A





derstanding to delight to see you, and all that had engaged in in the Publick Cause, to be liable to the mercy, and in danger of the events of the great Incurfions, Infurrections, and Invasions which did prefage (as your Petitioner humbly conceiveth) your inevitable, illegal, and violent dissolution, and destruction, if God had not been eminently favourable in the use of the means) did engage as Captain of a Troop of Horse, under the Command of Sir Miles *Linefey* Knight as Colonel; And after did March out of *Kent* towards the North, by order and in continued Reference to your defence and conservation, his Commission being to be obedient to Orders of Parliament, General Committee, &c. did by means thereof expend in Moneys, and loose by death, and spoil of Horses, and lending Moneys to some Souldiers in their necessities about 300 li.

That your Petitioner marching out of *Kent* with others by Order, and in relation to the aforesaid ends, to the time of his commitment, his Arrears came to about 300 li. more, of which he never received one penny of Pay.

That your Petitioner by accident, in his long and many troubles, (by means whereof he hath lost divers Papers and Accounts) hath preserved one Debentor of 63 li. as his part due unto him from the Right Honourable the Earl of *Manchester*, for 43 li. whereof your Petitioner hath an expresse or Warrant for the same to be payed, of which he never directly or indirectly received one penny, besides other sums due to him upon other Arrears, not made up and audited, by reason of his incapability to prosecute the making up of Accounts, by reason of his almost three years in durance, and the disfavour he hath been under ever since.

That in the said year 1648, your Petitioner being demanded his opinion and Vote in Counsel, and freely giving the same, according to his Conscience, was presently thereupon cast out of Counsel, and after that dismissed the Command of his Troop, without any Legall formal accusation, Liberty of defence, Trial, and condemnation (the Legal companions and methods of Justice in all Causes) & your Petitioner did appeal unto you against such Arbitrary actions, as judging them unlawful in themselves, and



and Originally, and Fundamentally condemned by you in the case of the Warr. And instead of entring upon the Examination, and hearing of the Cause, and doing your Petitioner impartial right, according to the direction of the Laws of God, Nature, and Nation, and your own Declarations, you were pleased to commit and send your Petitioner a Prisoner to the Garrison of *Windsor* during your pleasure: which imprisonment of his continued almost three years, and which kind of waies, your Petitioner cannot but humbly conceive, that in your great illumination and knowledge of the paths of Justice, and after your Arbitrary interruption and restitution to Power and Government, you will upon second thoughts condemn the same, and do your Petitioner right; and manifest by actual and real vertue, that you did not what was done through your own natural inclination and affection.

That it is true your Petitioner doth ingeniously confess hee hath some discouragement upon his understanding, to appeale to you, to do him Right, and to consider his sufferings, and Arbitrary severe Imprisonment; his said sufferings in a great part relating to an act of your own, which was to his great and destructive prejudice, and if your Petitioner should take into his Observation, and lay before him (as an unanswerable argument) the difficulty that is in judging aright against a mans self, in which Case no act of indemnity can rationally lie, or be made by the party that doth the injury as your Petitioner humbly conceives, for that no man that makes himself a party, can be party and Judge to Indemnifie himself. But then on the other hand your Petitioner is not bereft of hopes, but doth conceive it is the more acceptable in Gods sight, and the greater Vertue, and honour amongst men voluntarily upon the least intimation or humble, and rationally remembrance and addresse given (from the Weak and Oppressed) to do justly, and repaire wrongs without importunity, in this your Golden opportunity, after your so many years Arbitrary and violent interruption, and Gods own taking away (by his visitation) the late visible Interrupter, for Reasons most and best known to his Wisdom.

That



That by occasion of all which is before alledged, your Petitioner is become indebted unto sundry persons in the midst of a cruel World, where generally unkindnesse, inconsideration, and inhumanity is prosecuted, and affected, and the contrary (being vertues) very rarely, effectually found what ever is pretended amongst men; And for that your Petitioner ever since his Release is under the sensible feeling, and insupportable pressure of his Injuries for want of a just Consideration of him, and is even destroyed unlesse you should as a meanes of happinette and Justice extend your speedy Wisdom, Justice, and tender-nesse to him (in this his extraordinary Case,) or (if you should be wanting to do him Justice, or if it could be in reason presumed you would not heare after so long time) unlesse God should in an extraordinary manner take your Petitioner into his own speciall miraculous, immediate and all-sufficient Care, and Favour.

Your Petitioner humbly prayeth, that considering his burthens are greater then he is able to beare, you would be justly pleased to demonstrate the high exemplary Reason, Vertue, and Majesty of a great Counsell, to consider the Premisses, and speedily to order your Petitioner a summe of money, or present supply in consideration of his extraordinary disbursements, expenses, and losses in your service, and for your lawfull conservation in 1648. and also some part of his Arreares on account; And also that your Petitioner may receive satisfaction for the other Arreares from his marching out of *Kent* into the North, to the time of his Arbitrary dismission of Counsel Troop, and Commitment, which was *March 19th. 1648.* And his money due on Debentur and Warrant under the Earle of *Manchester*; and that you would order all Commissaries, or other Officers whom it cernes upon sight of your Order, to state his other Arreares; and also that you would in deliberate consideration, and in your knowledge of the honourable principles of Justice, Piety, and humanity do your Petitioner some moderate Right as to his all-most three years Imprisonment, as if it had been, or may be your own Case, or the Case of your Posterity in  
this



this uncertaine life, according to that essentiall, infallible, and unalterable Rule of Christ, who commands all to do as they would be done unto, which Rule was highly commended, and asserted in a letter by the 54 Nobles and Gentry of *Bohemiah* and *Moravia*, to, and against that great but unjust, Ambitious, and Cruell Counsell of Constance, concerning which it is said, the said Nobles and Gentry in their first springings of light, were grave in their Wisdom, and Noble in their Humanity, as is expressed in the Acts and Monuments of the Church to their perpetuall commendation in the minds of all good men: say they every man by the Law of Nature, and also by Gods Law is commanded to do that to another which he would have done to himself; and forbidden to do that to another which he would not have done to himself, and although the best of men may (through infirmity, inconsideration, or surprize,) act against that invalluable Rule; yet a good man accounts it his duty to endeavour an effectuall retreat: Your Petitioner also prayeth that you would not onely do him speedy Justice (after his 10 or 11 years sufferings and neglects in his Native Country to save him and his Family from Ruine, and make him capable to satisfie his Creditors, and that his enemies, may not rejoyce in his destruction) but excuse his plainnesse or any imperfections you may find, and Judge in the Complaint of the Oppressed; and if you in your Wisdom, and free Will, think it fit to do him further impartial Justice, and restore him to his place of Trust, from which he was Arbitrarily ejected as foresaid, he shall study according to his understanding to be faithfull to you therein, and ever pray that God would extend his Wisdom and care, for your care, and respect to Impartiall Justice, and Humanity, &c.

WILLIAM BRAY.

JUNE 18. 1659.

FINIS.





